AMENDMENT

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for encapsulating a bus interface selecting request within a common transport message that facilitates usage with bus interface constructs, comprising:

receiving a common transport message by a local host bus adapter, the common transport message being compliant with a Fibre Channel General Services Common Transport version 3 (FC-GS-3) Protocol;

modifying the common transport message in the local host bus adapter to contain a bus message passing request, the bus message passing request being a Fusion Message Passing Technology request; and

transmitting the modified common transport message from the local host bus adapter to a remote host bus adapter, ~~the modified common transport message including an address, a command and data in SCSI format,~~

~~wherein the modified common transport message is transmitted from the local host bus adapter to the remote host bus adapter via an external Ethernet link, the external Ethernet link directly, communicatively connecting a local software driver of the local host bus adapter to a remote software driver of the remote host bus adapter.~~

utilizing the modified common transport message for updating and configuring the remote host bus adapter,

wherein the method allows for in-band and out-of-band management of the remote host bus adapter.

2-3 (Cancelled)

4. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the common transport message is modifiable to identify a bus type.

5. (Original) The method of Claim 4, wherein the bus type is SAS.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 4, wherein the bus type is Fibre Channel (FC).

7. (Original) The method of Claim 4, wherein the bus type is Infiniband.

8. (Original) The method of Claim 4, wherein the bus type is Internet Small Computer System Interface (iSCSI).

9-17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) A method for managing a remote host bus adapter, comprising:

acquiring a Peripheral Component Interconnect (PCI) message request, the PCI message request being a Fusion Message Passing Technology request;

encapsulating the PCI message request in a Fibre Channel (FC) packet, the FC packet being compliant with a Fibre Channel General Services Common Transport version 3 (FC-GS-3) Protocol; and

transmitting the encapsulated FC packet over a FC link to a remote host bus adapter;

wherein the encapsulated FC packet is used by a local host bus adapter to configure and update the remote host bus adapter,

wherein the method allows for in-band and out-of-band management of the remote host bus adapter.

~~wherein the encapsulated FC packet is transmitted to the remote host bus adapter via an external Ethernet link directly, communicatively connecting a local software driver of a local host bus adapter with a remote software driver of the remote host bus adapter,~~

~~wherein the PCI message request is a Fusion Message Passing Technology request, the Fusion Message Passing Technology request including an address, a command and data in SCSI format.~~

19-26. (Cancelled)

27. (New) A system for remote host bus adapter management, comprising:

a local host bus adapter including a local bus interface message software driver and local bus interface message hardware and firmware, the local bus interface message software driver being configured for receiving a bus interface message passing request from a local software application, the bus interface message passing request being a Fusion Message Passing Technology request, the local bus interface message software driver configured for forwarding the bus interface message passing request to the local bus interface message hardware and firmware for execution to modify a remote host bus adapter management protocol message to include the bus interface message passing request, the remote host bus adapter management protocol message being compliant with a Fibre Channel General Services Common Transport version 3 (FC-GS-3) Protocol;

a remote host bus adapter configured for receiving a modified remote host bus adapter management protocol message which includes the bus interface message passing request, the modified remote host bus adapter management protocol message which includes the bus interface message passing request being configured for updating and configuring the remote host bus adapter; and

switching and routing means for communicatively coupling the local host bus adapter and the remote host bus adapter, the switching and routing means including a Fibre Channel link, wherein the local host bus adapter is capable of managing the remote host bus adapter through a bus interface

wherein the local host bus adapter is configured for determining when the remote host bus adapter is capable of receiving and acting upon the bus interface message passing request, the local host bus adapter being further configured for providing the modified remote host bus adapter management protocol message which includes the bus

interface message passing request to the remote host bus adapter when the local host bus adapter determines that the remote host bus adapter is capable of receiving and acting upon the bus interface message passing request,

wherein the system is configured for in-band and out-of-band remote host bus adapter management.

28. (New) The system as claimed in claim 27, wherein the (FC-GS-3) Protocol is vendor-unique.

29. (New) The system as claimed in claim 27, wherein the system is configured for allowing communication from operating system level to driver level to external HBA level.

30. (New) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein out-of-band management includes transmitting the modified common transport message between servers via an Ethernet link.

31. (New) The method as claimed in claim 18, wherein out-of-band management includes transmitting the packet between servers via an Ethernet link.

32. (New) The method as claimed in claim 27, wherein out-of-band management includes transmitting the bus interface message passing request between servers of the system via an Ethernet link.